

PAST/PRESENT/FUTURE

CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- A stack of old newspapers and magazines, scissors, paper and glue
- Copies of the downloadable 622 service booklet
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader's notes
- OPTIONAL: A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

ICE BREAKER: WHAT'S TRENDING?

Bring in a stack of old/unwanted newspapers and magazines. Invite the teens to cut them up and create a collage together of things that they would say are “trending” (topics, fashions, people, ideas, etc. that are popular or generating a large amount of interest right now). When they finish (or when about ten minutes has passed), post the resulting work, and take a few moments to review the collage. Ask them to rank some of the trends they've included on a scale of 1-10 indicating whether they are more silly/harmful (1=junk food) or something with lasting value (10=nutritious).

A SMALL GROUP MAY BE HAPPY WORKING TOGETHER ON A SINGLE COLLAGE. FOR LARGER OR MORE INDEPENDENT GROUPS YOU MAY WISH TO HAVE THE TEENS WORK SEPARATELY AND THEN POST THEIR COLLAGES TOGETHER AS ONE LARGER PIECE BEFORE REVIEWING.

622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order of service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

DISCUSSION: TRACING TRENDS

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- What sort of people do you think of as the most likely to start a trend?
- Does it matter where a trend comes from?
- What are some examples of trends turning into “classics”?

A few things worth pointing out (if they don't otherwise arise during the discussion):

- *Trend-setters are usually people that other people look up to. They may be popular because they are really good at something, because they are intelligent, beautiful, talented, successful, etc. When we choose role models we should keep in mind that some of these things are worthy of our admiration and others are not.*
- *Where a trend comes from can tell us a lot about its meaning. Often we see trends without a context and we take them at face value, but if we look more closely we may discover that there is more going on than meets the eye.*

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For example, some trends are actually marketing campaigns carefully crafted by advertising agencies! Think about celebrities who are paid to endorse products. If we become trend-followers without asking any questions, we will be easily duped!

- *Things that have value last. They never go out of style. They become “classics”. You might refer to examples in music, literature or art.*

THE LESSON: LUKE 22

The first part of the lesson gives a brief introduction to Holy Communion in general terms. You may wish to pause after reading it so that the teens can ask any questions they might have about that before moving on to the scripture text. Then the teens are asked to read the Bible text (either silently to themselves or aloud together), followed by some additional questions for discussion.

(IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP RESPOND TO QUESTIONS DURING THIS UNIT, WE RECOMMEND “DISCOVERING THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: A HANDS-ON APPROACH, VOLUME 2, OUR LIFE IN THE CHURCH” BY SUE CARELESS.)

For 2000 years the sacrament of Holy Communion has been central to Christian life and worship. The different Christian traditions approach it with different language, different ceremonies and even somewhat different understandings, but what is important is what we have in common: When Christians gather together for Holy Communion, we are testifying to our faith in Jesus by doing something that he himself set in motion at the Last Supper.

Jesus and his disciples were eating the Passover meal together when he held up the bread and wine and referred to them as his body and blood saying, “Do this in remembrance of me”. Jesus knew, unlike his disciples, that he was about to be crucified. But he also knew why he was doing it: for them, and for us.

Today, when believers celebrate Holy Communion, we do so as a memorial of what Jesus has done for us. But Communion is not just about something that happened in the past. It is also about something that is happening right now, as the Church gathers together and experiences the spiritual presence of Christ among us. As Jesus said, “where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them”. Beyond this, Communion is also about something that we are looking forward to with great anticipation: Christ’s return, our own resurrection and the heavenly feast that we will celebrate with him on that day.

So what is Holy Communion? Holy Communion is something that will take more than a single lesson for us to explore because it is so rich in meaning, symbolism and mystery. But let’s start here: It’s about our relationship with Jesus: past, present, and future.

Refer to Luke 22: 7-20.

(THE TEXT IS PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THE HANDOUTS AND IN THESE LEADERS’ NOTES SO THAT EVERYONE CAN MARK IT UP AND MAKE NOTES ON IT IF DESIRED. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN READ OUT OF A BIBLE).

Read through the text. Then ask the teens to respond to what they’ve just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

- This supper, and everything Jesus said at it, was intentional. Just from looking at this text, how can we tell that it was no accident, but rather planned in advance?
- What is the meaning that Jesus gives to the bread and wine?
- What are the instructions that Jesus gives regarding the bread and wine?

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A few notes and reflections for reference:

- *The instructions that Jesus gave to his disciples were very specific. Either Jesus had made detailed arrangements ahead of time, or he had supernatural knowledge of what was about to unfold. Perhaps both! The passage shows that Jesus had the place chosen and he knew every detail of how they must find that place to prepare for this epic meal. Jesus' words to the disciples at the table also show that he knew this moment would come and had been looking forward to it.*
- *The bread, Jesus says, is his body, "given for you". The wine is "the new covenant" in his blood, "poured out for you". Not only is he giving the meaning of body and blood to the bread and wine, but he is also clearly saying that they are an offering, a sacrifice offered for their benefit and representing a new covenant. (This will make more sense in the coming weeks when we take a look at the meaning behind the Passover itself and the sacrifices of the old covenant.)*
- *The disciples are instructed to divide the contents of the cup among themselves: they are supposed to share it as a united group. And they are instructed to do this going forward in remembrance of Jesus.*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON'T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY "AT-HOME CHALLENGE" IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

Each morning and evening, follow the prayer plan that you created for yourself.

(If you didn't make one, try saying the morning and evening prayers from the "Forms of Prayer to be used in Families", which begins on page 728 of the BCP. If you don't have a copy, you can look it up here: <http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer>.)

Set aside a few moments when you pray, to reflect quietly upon this verse from scripture (Psalm 116:13):
"I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord."

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

O Blessed Saviour, who by thy cross and passion hast given life unto the world: Grant that we thy servants may be given grace to take up the cross and follow thee through life and death; whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit we worship and glorify, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (COLLECT FOR HOLY CROSS DAY, BCP PAGE 321)

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Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE "PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS" SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER. IF YOU'RE PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU MIGHT CLOSE WITH THE THEMED PRAYER FROM THE AT-HOME CHALLENGE.

Then finish with the "Grace", the final prayer in the booklet.

LUKE 22: **STARTED BY JESUS**

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." ⁹They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" ¹⁰He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹²And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."